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U.S. UNITS IN SEOUL TIGHTEN SECURITY

Attack on Compound Housing
Civilians and Soldiers Is
Behind New Measures

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SEOUL, South Korea, Nov. 19 — The United States military has tightened security around its civilian installations after an attack on an American housing compound by a group of young protesters armed with firebombs and metal bars.

The attack Thursday evening, during which two American soldiers were reportedly injured and several parked cars were damaged, came at a time when the United States has come under increased criticism here.

According to witnesses, some 20 to 50 people described as college students shoved their way through the gates of Hannam Village, a housing complex used by more than 600 families of soldiers and civilians assigned to the United States and United Nations military commands.

Although demonstrations at the United States Embassy and its military and other official installations are familiar occurrences, American civilians and their homes have rarely been targets for demonstrators.

Farmers March on U.S. Embassy

In what was considered a routine incident on the same day, for example, 10,000 farmers were met by riot policemen and tear gas when they tried to march on the United States Embassy to protest American trade pressures.

They carried signs reading "Down With United States Imperialism" and "Down With the Military Dictatorship Which Kills Farmers by Opening Our Markets."

Anti-American feeling escalated during the Olympic Games, which ended Oct. 2, focusing on what was seen as insulting behavior by some American athletes and on intensive coverage by American television of a melee involving Korean boxing officials.

Criticisms of America have continued in the press since then, accusing the United States, which maintains a force of 40,000 troops here, of arrogance and of strong-arm trade policies.

South Korea had a \$10 billion trade deficit with the United States last year and has come under American pressure to revalue its currency, the won, and to open its markets to American goods such as grains, tobacco and beef.

The criticisms, which have spread to some degree from the students who lead street protests to mainstream Koreans, also focus on Washington's support for the unpopular eight-year regime of the former President, Chun Doo Hwan.

The United States is believed by some Koreans, for example, to have lent tacit support to the harsh suppression in 1980 of protests in the city of Kwangju in which hundreds of people were killed by Korean riot police.

In a speech Friday, the commander of United States forces in Korea, Gen. Louis C. Menetrey, called accusations of complicity in Kwangju nonsense.

But in televised hearings on the incident that began Friday, even the opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung, who is not usually critical of the United States, voiced his regret that America had not mediated to halt the bloodshed.

A poll of students at six colleges that was reported Friday in local newspapers found that 95 percent believed that the United States must share some blame for Kwangju and that 48 percent say American troops should be withdrawn from Korea.

The poll of 551 students, conducted by Seoul University's Center for International Studies, found that 50 percent say the United States is neither an ally nor an enemy of Korea and that 42 percent blame the United States for the division of North and South Korea.

Other Recent Incidents

Thursday's attack on the housing compound was the most serious of a half-dozen incidents reported since the Olympics ended.

In one incident on Oct. 14, about 200 students attacked the United States Cultural Center in Kwangju, damaging parked cars and breaking windows.

In another, in the capital's Itaewon entertainment district near the United States military headquarters, 100 people were involved in a street brawl that began when several American soldiers argued with a taxi driver.

The most recent case, fueling anti-American resentment, involved an American civilian on contract with the Air Force who fled the country after a traffic accident in which a Korean woman was injured.

He had been turned over to the custody of American authorities pending an investigation and possible trial by the Koreans. Critics calling for a revision of the 1966 Status of Forces Agreement that regulates the American military presence here are arguing, among other things, for an adjustment of the rules of criminal jurisdiction.

A United States military spokesman said extra security measures were being taken as a result of Thursday's incident, in addition to an alert that has been maintained at the Army headquarters since the Olympics.